

Cashmere Residents' Association CASHMERE VISION AND VALUES

THE FUTURE
AS YOU WANT IT

cashmere
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Cashmere Residents' Association would like to thank all those who supported this project, including:

- Residents of Cashmere
- Spreydon Heathcote Community Board
- Cashmere Primary School
- The Cup Café
- Cashmere Hills Presbyterian Church
- St Augustine's Anglican Church

We would also like to thank the members of the Residents' Association who hosted and provided catering for the workshops and public meetings.

Cashmere Residents' Association would also like to acknowledge the contributions of the Christchurch City Council staff who helped with the project including staff from

- Community Engagement Team
- Monitoring and Research Team
- Spreydon Heathcote Board Advisor
- Beckenham Service Centre Team
- City Libraries

This report is based on the information made available to us. Although efforts have been made to ensure accuracy, Cashmere Residents' Association cannot guarantee there are no errors or that information has not become outdated since publication.

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MESSAGE FROM CHAIR

On behalf of the Cashmere Vision and Values Project Team, I would like to introduce our Vision and Values report to you.

The Cashmere Vision and Values Project was an opportunity for those who live and work in Cashmere to say what is important to them. The project was initiated by the Cashmere Residents' Association and the Spreydon Heathcote Community Board to help them to better understand local priorities.

Both the Residents' Association and the Community Board have a responsibility to represent and act as an advocate for the interests of the community. Both recognised that a prerequisite of representing and advocating for the community is understanding the community – what they value, what they want changed, what outcomes they want for their community and the city.

Readers of this report will find Cashmere is a community with many strengths – the greatest strength being our people and their commitment to working together to create a strong and connected community. Our sense of community is undoubtedly one of the reasons people choose to live in this community.

Information gathered as part of this project will guide the Residents' Associations' future activities and inform the Community Board's planning and decision-making.

We would like to thank the members of our communities who have contributed to this project.

Joan Blatchford

Chair, Vision and Values Project



THE OBJECTIVES AND DELIVERABLES

The Objectives of the Project were

- To develop an understanding of the views, vision and values of individual citizens and families in Cashmere
- To develop processes for ongoing community engagement with the community
- To enhance the sense of community and community connections in Cashmere
- To identify the components and initiatives which worked most effectively so aspects of the project could be used in other locations, if appropriate.

A primary output was a document describing the views and priorities for the residents which could be used by the Community Board and the Cashmere Residents' Association in their planning and priority setting.

Another core deliverable was the establishment of an ongoing community communication and engagement vehicle and process.

“The aim of the project was to involve residents in imagining a shared future vision for their community and city. It brought together local people to debate and articulate local community values, identify current issues and future opportunities, and collectively develop specific plans to achieve their vision.”

WHY THIS PROJECT?

Cashmere Residents' Association and the Spreydon Heathcote Community Board have a responsibility to represent and act as an advocate for the interests of the community. Both recognise that a prerequisite of representing and advocating for the community is understanding the community.

This project was a pilot aimed to provide the Cashmere Residents' Association and the Spreydon Heathcote Community Board with an in-depth understanding of a community's views, values and vision. It was intended that this would be a pilot. The project processes were documented and the components and initiatives which worked most effectively were identified so aspects of the project could be used in other locations, if appropriate.

CASHMERE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION ROLE

The Cashmere Residents' Association is a group of residents who act as a liaison between the community of Cashmere and outside parties such as the City Council, Regional Council and government agencies.

Like other residents' associations it faces the perennial problem of determining how representative are the opinions of more vocal and active community members.

The Cashmere Residents' Association believed in the importance of being confident that it represented the views of the wider community and not just a few individuals on a Residents' Association Committee.

“A prerequisite of representing and advocating for the community is understanding the community – what they value, what they want changed, what outcomes they want for their community and the city”

Member of Cashmere Residents' Association

COMMUNITY BOARD ROLE

Recent legislation, such as the Local Government Act 2002, has reasserted the relationship between community boards and councils and their communities, and the need to involve citizens in decision-making and implementation.

The fundamental purpose of local government is to:

- (a) enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities; and
- (b) promote the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of communities, in the present and for the future. (Section 10)

Community Boards' responsibilities involve both leading and representing their communities. The Local Government Act 2002 identifies that the community board's should

- Represent and act as an advocate for the interests of the community
- Consider and report on any issues of interest to the community board

Community Boards are in an ideal position to reflect the views of their communities in council decision-making processes. To do this effectively they must have processes of communication with their communities and also maintain an understanding of their views and priorities.

“Focusing on the vision of communities is one of the foundations of participatory democracy”

Community Board Member

“Knowing the range of expectations, desires, fears, advantages and difficulties residents are 'experiencing' can inform local government decision-making processes in new ways.”

Community Board Member

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT RATHER THAN CONSULTATION

This project was developed as a community engagement project rather than a community consultation. There is a considerable body of knowledge and experience on good consultation processes. There are examples of innovative approaches that are being utilized to consult communities. However, consultation has a once and for all quality: participation only at a particular moment on confined terms. Consultation elicits only particular kinds of information from consumers.

There are few examples of how public bodies can engage communities over the long-term as opposed to consult about a particular issue, policy or plan. Engagement involves sustained and continuing processes – in different ways at all stages of decision making and planning. Citizen engagement has an emphasis on in-depth dialogue, the focus on finding common ground, greater time commitments and its potential to build civic capacity.

Engagement involves sustained and continuing processes – in different ways at all stages of decision making and planning. Ongoing engagement means the community boards and councils do not need to consult communities about every issue as it occurs because they will already have a picture of the views and preference and processes for ongoing dialogue.

ENGAGING WITH FAMILIES AND HOUSEHOLDS

There are examples throughout New Zealand of innovative approaches that are being utilized to consult with sector and interest groups.

The increasing organisation of citizens into interest groups has tended to turn politics into a competition of narrowly defined interests. It can involve a clash of paradigms and confrontation between fiercely held beliefs. The Families Commission has identified that a family-centred approach could introduce a different kind of voice into local government.

The Cashmere Residents' Association and the Spreydon Heathcote Community Board wished to explore if a family-centred approach would elicit a different view. This project engaged with households and families alongside target groups such as children and young

people and community groups. Families were asked to consider what is good for them, including parents, young and old family members, those with disabilities etc.

The increasing organisation of citizens into interest groups has tended to turn politics into a competition of narrowly defined interests. It can involve a clash of paradigms and confrontation between fiercely held beliefs.

A family-centred approach could introduce a different kind of voice into local government.

WORKING IN HIGHER SOCIO-ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES

Community needs assessment, community visioning and community development exercises have largely been conducted at a metropolitan level or in lower socio-economic communities.

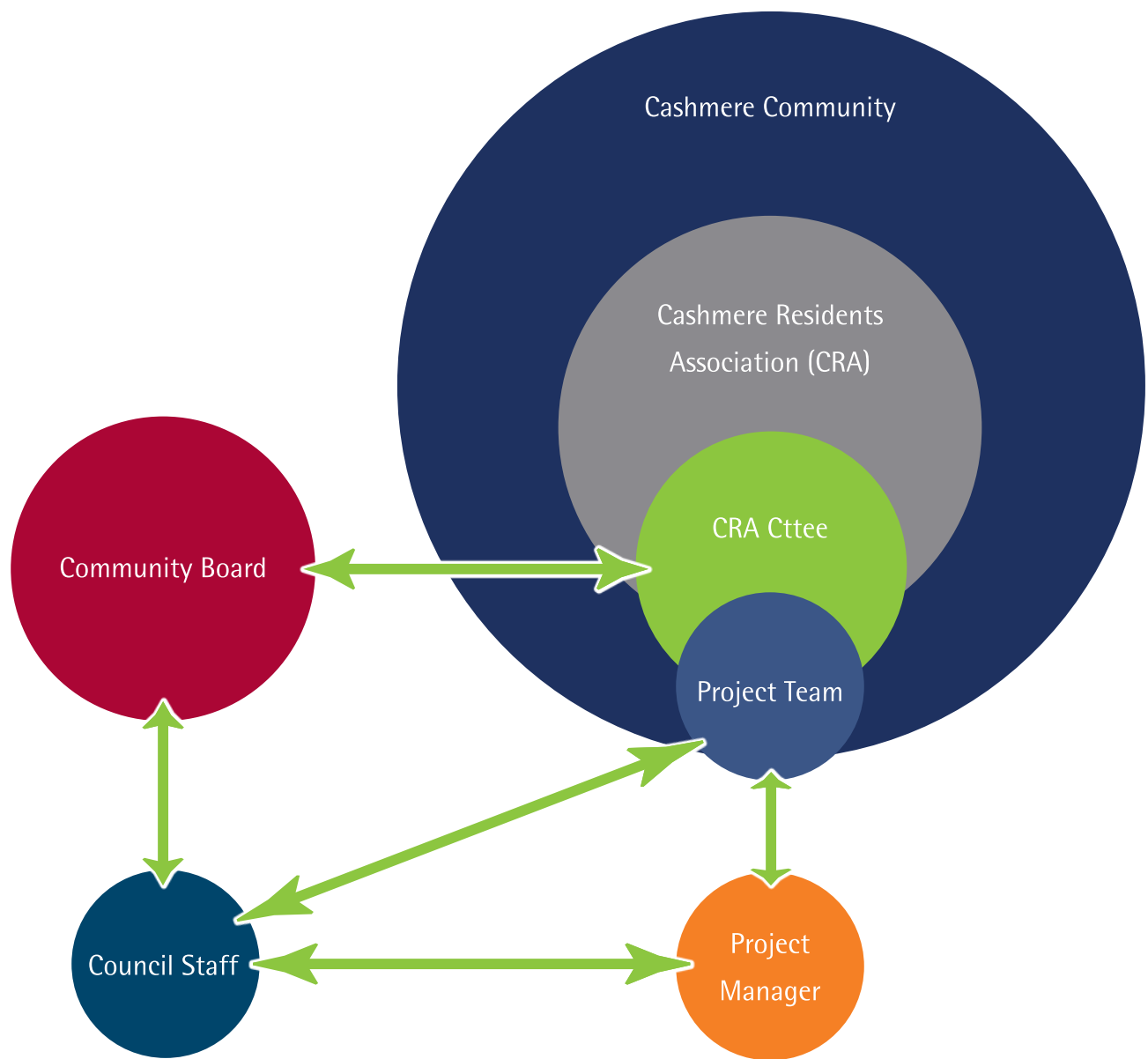
A large body of literature provides an abundance of information about best practice in working with disadvantaged communities. There are good reasons to target such communities, for example the need to ration services, maximise absolute benefits, reduce adverse affects of inappropriate service and achieve equity by reducing barriers to opportunity. Evidence also identifies that councils have a vital role of investing in organisational capacity of poorer communities and providing large scale responses to widespread social need and services for those unable to purchase their own.

However, healthy, well-resourced people and households can also be difficult to contact, consult or engage. Little is known about how to work in higher socio-economic communities. The Residents' Association and the Community Board wanted to identify if there were different processes, tools and methods for working with higher socio-economic communities. It also wanted to develop a sense of the vision and values of residents and families in these communities. It wanted to gauge how, if at all, these differed from the views of other communities.

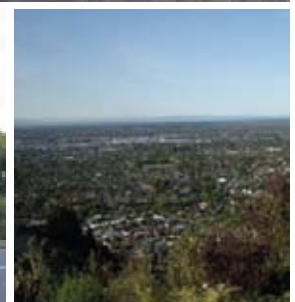
“We wanted to try something new – break new ground and work in a community which wouldn't be the natural first pick for this type of project.”

Cashmere Residents' Group Member

OUR PARTNERSHIP



WHAT DID WE DO?



The Project was a partnership between Community Board and the Cashmere Community. It was initiated in 2007 and implemented through 2008.

Throughout 2007	Community Board members discussed the concept of community vision and engagement at various public meetings and with the Cashmere Residents' Association Committee.
Sept 2007	Cashmere Residents' Association approached the Community Board regarding a partnership project to pilot a community visioning and engagement process in Cashmere
Sept 2007	Partnership formed between Community Board and Cashmere
Oct 2007	Small grant allocated from Board Discretionary Fund – <i>Strengthening Community Action Plan Fund</i>
Nov 2007	Cashmere Residents' Association host Public Meeting in Cashmere (with the Community Board). Both partners present their ideas for the project
Dec 2007	Community Project Team formed – from the public meeting
Jan 2008	Project Plan developed – and project manager contracted
April 2008	Launch Project – Website, Postcard drop
May 2008 – Oct 2008	Project engagement, including meetings, survey etc
Oct 2008	Discussion Document produced and distributed to every household
Nov 2008	Priorities confirmed through feedback and public meeting
March 2009	Final report completed



WHAT METHODS DID WE USE?

To ensure success the project adopted a variety of methods and tools to engage with the community – rather than relying on a single method.

To gain information for this project we:

- Hosted a website with an online response form
- Hosted public meetings
- Hosted workshops
- Surveyed residents through a questionnaire distributed to each household in Cashmere
- Distributed a postcard to every household introducing the project and informing people of contacts' details and website address
- Contacted Community groups and clubs to invite their feedback
- Hosted a photo exhibition by local young people of what they thought was "hot" or "not" about Cashmere
- Visited the Cashmere Primary School and received feedback from the Board of Trustees and students
- Analysed data and statistics on Cashmere.
- Scanned all the reports, literature and plans about the community

We varied our methods to make them appropriate and accessible to:

- Families and households
- Children
- Young People
- Older people
- Local community groups
- Local businesses

This multiple method approach proved to be very successful.

THE WEBSITE www.cashmere.org.nz



The website formed the virtual office and information base for the project.

We used the website to

- Provide background to the project
- Notify meetings
- Report on findings and progress to date
- Provide electronic surveys
- Register people interested in the project
- Post notices
- Provide access to reports, for example the community profile

Residents' Association and Community Board notices and newsletters were also placed on the site. The website was regularly updated.

The website started with a quick online survey in which people could signal what they valued about Cashmere and what they would like to change.

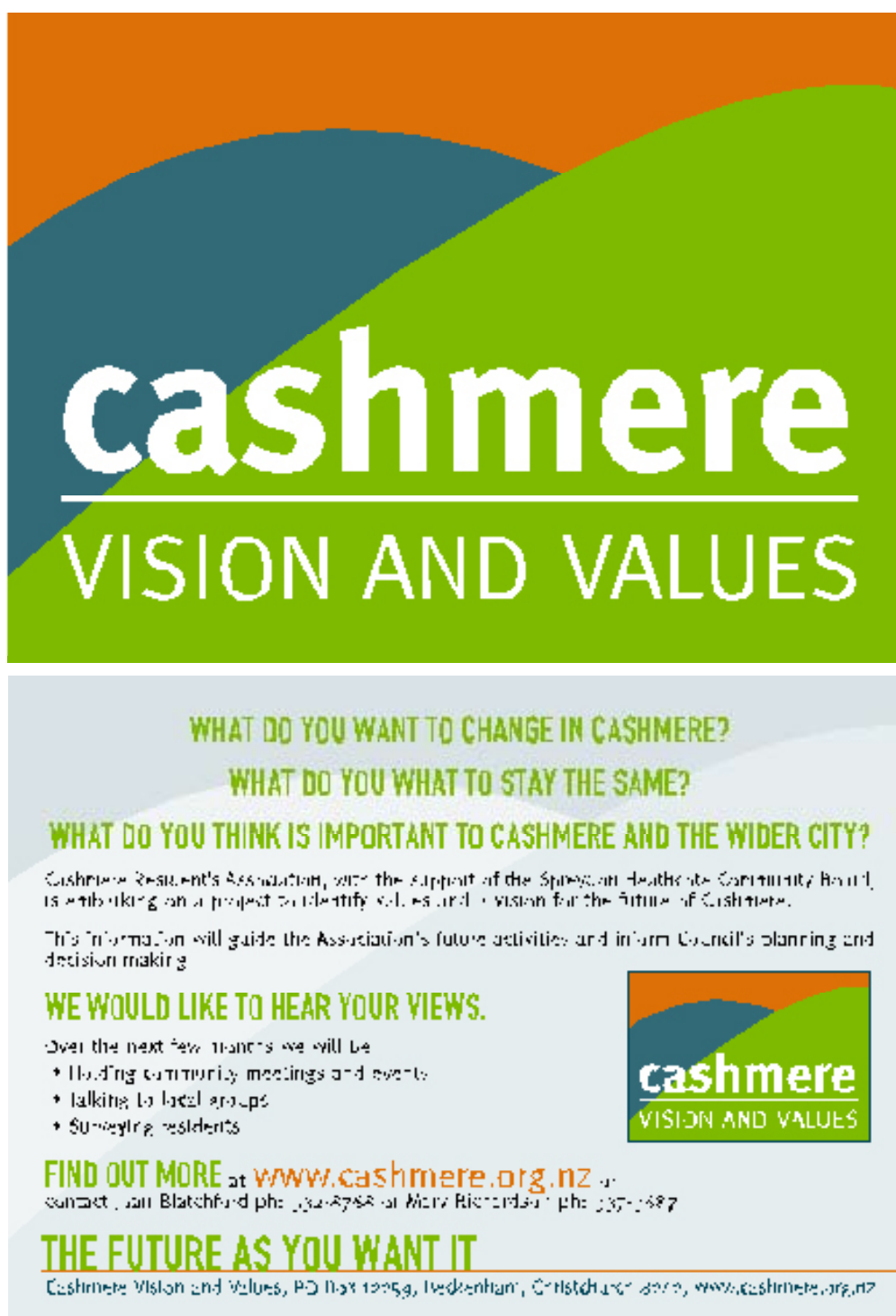
The Cashmere residents agreed it was important to keep this website active and use it as a community networking and information tool. The Residents' Association will host the site. A working group has been formed to further develop and manage the site.

POSTCARD

Early in the project we distributed a postcard to every Cashmere household. The postcard introduced the project to local residents. It also provided details about how people could become involved and find more information about the project. It provided people with the web address.

The aims of the postcard were to alert people to the project and establish a brand and identity.

A large number of people and families registered on the database after receiving the postcard.



"SNAP IT" YOUTH PHOTO SURVEY

The youth pastor from a local church encouraged a group of young people to photograph their ideas of what was "hot" or "not" about Cashmere.

The photos were exhibited at public meetings and at the 100 year celebrations of a local Church. People voted, using sticky dots, on whether they agreed with the photos. Some of the young people presented and discussed their photos at workshops, for example at a Community Board hosted workshop.

The main things the young people indicated they liked about Cashmere were the parks, playground, trees, buildings and churches, cafes, river, views, and walkways.

The things people indicated they didn't like included the graffiti, global corporations, tourist buses, lack of footpaths, car burn-out marks, tree damage and litter.



CHILDREN'S VOICE

We visited the Cashmere Primary School and received feedback from the

- Board of Trustees
- Students

The students wrote poems, preformed songs or made models to express their views on and aspirations for the community.

“I like Cashmere because it is Cool! It's above the smog and has lots of Snow.”

“It's clean and Green and has good views.”

“It's got places to explore.”



THE SURVEY OF RESIDENTS

We distributed a survey to each household in Cashmere. This gave every resident an opportunity to have their say about what they think is important for Cashmere.

Approximately 200 households responded to the survey

The survey responses were consistent with workshop and meeting responses.

SURVEY

PEEL OFF STRIP AND STICK DOWN TO POST BACK

Are you completing this survey for the household? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If YES, how many people are you answering for? _____

What age/s are you? ☐ under 15 ☐ 15-24 ☐ 25-35 ☐ 35-50 ☐ 50-65 ☐ 65 and over

Do you ☐ Live in Cashmere ☐ Own a business in Cashmere ☐ Visit Cashmere to

Q1. What do you like about Cashmere? (tick as many as appropriate)

<input type="radio"/> Walkways	<input type="radio"/> Dog park	<input type="radio"/> Victoria Park
<input type="radio"/> The views	<input type="radio"/> Trees and gardens	<input type="radio"/> River
<input type="radio"/> Cafes	<input type="radio"/> Old buildings & churches	<input type="radio"/> Cycle lanes
<input type="radio"/> Proximity to South Library	<input type="radio"/> Proximity to city	<input type="radio"/> Local schools
<input type="radio"/> Local shops & businesses	<input type="radio"/> Friendly neighbours	<input type="radio"/> Well maintained roads
<input type="radio"/> Climate	<input type="radio"/> Air quality	

Other: _____

Q2. What are the drawbacks of living in Cashmere? (tick as many as appropriate)

<input type="radio"/> Traffic congestion	<input type="radio"/> Boy racers	<input type="radio"/> Lack of footpaths
<input type="radio"/> Tree damage	<input type="radio"/> Graffiti	<input type="radio"/> Lack of community activities
<input type="radio"/> Vandalism	<input type="radio"/> Car theft or damage	<input type="radio"/> Rubbish or litter
<input type="radio"/> Loss of green areas	<input type="radio"/> Cyclists on narrow roads	<input type="radio"/> Old buildings pulled down

Other: _____

Q3. Do you feel a sense of community with others in your local neighbourhood? (e.g. share interests and concerns with them, ask each other for small favours) ☐ strongly agree ☐ agree ☐ disagree ☐ strongly disagree

Q4. What types of community activities or events would you attend if they were available? (tick as many as appropriate)

<input type="radio"/> Walking groups	<input type="radio"/> Concerts / performing arts
<input type="radio"/> Neighbourhood support groups	<input type="radio"/> Community fairs / fun days
<input type="radio"/> Street parties / meetings	<input type="radio"/> Garden clubs
<input type="radio"/> Seminars and lectures	<input type="radio"/> More likely to be involved in activities outside of Cashmere
<input type="radio"/> Book clubs	<input type="radio"/> Unlikely to attend any local community activities
<input type="radio"/> Other: _____	

Q5. Would you like to know more about groups, clubs and activities in Cashmere? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Q6. In the next 10-20 years, Cashmere should become a community that (please complete sentence):

Q7. In the next 10-20 years, Christchurch should become a city that (please complete sentence):

Q8. Do you have any ideas about how the Association and/or the Council can improve Cashmere and the wider city?

THANK YOU FOR THE TIME YOU HAVE TAKEN TO SHARE YOUR IDEAS AND CONCERNS

NEWSLETTER

The project used the existing Residents' Association newsletter to inform people about the project, advertise events and update on progress.

The newsletter is regularly distributed to every household in the community.

PUBLIC MEETINGS and WORKSHOPS

We ran a series of public meetings and workshops with local residents.

The meetings were used to provide local residents with updates on what we had found and to get their feedback.

Each meeting had between 60 to 100 people attending.



COMMUNITY GROUP ENGAGEMENT

Cashmere had few groups or businesses operating in the community. There are only two churches based, a primary school, a kindergarten, one café and a bar.

The Churches

Both churches had a representative on the Project Team. One church made its hall available free of charge for all the meetings, including project team meetings, workshops and public meetings. The youth worker at the church engaged its youth group to manage the "snap-it" project. The youth worker also ran the workshops with the school students.



Community group and club involvement

We also wrote to all the groups and organisations based in the Cashmere and the surrounding area which we thought may have membership from Cashmere. We invited them to become involved in the project. We offered to come to their meetings and invited them to attend community meetings. Representatives of groups attended the public meetings

Café

The local café sponsored the survey and offered prize draw. It also hosted a prize draw. Information on the project was also on display at the café.



DISCUSSION DOCUMENT

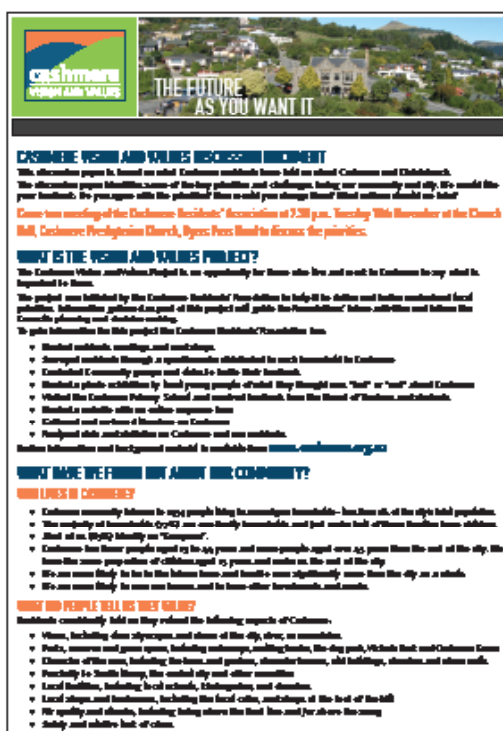
The feedback gained from all the various methods was brought together into a discussion document.

The discussion paper identified some of the key priorities and challenges facing our community and city. It included a summary of what people had told us regarding:

- The things they valued about Cashmere
- The drawbacks of living in Cashmere
- Outcomes for the community and the city they wanted
- Priorities for the community
- Priorities for the city
- The priorities for the Community Board and Residents' Association
- What households and the community could contribute
- How they wanted to be involved in the future

The discussion document was once again distributed to every household. We invited feedback addressing the following questions:

- Had we heard the correct issues?
- Had we heard the right priorities?
- How would they change them? What would they add?
- How could they contribute?



COMMUNITY PROFILE

This report provided the 2006 Census of Population and Dwellings information relating to Cashmere. It covered a variety of census variables including

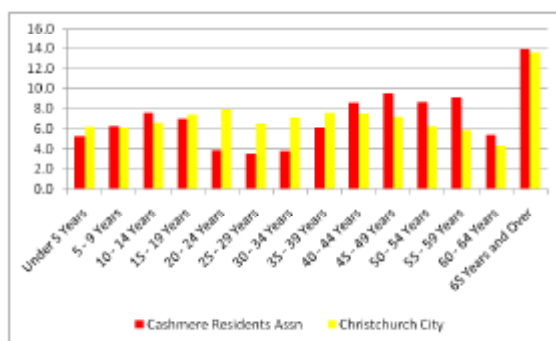
- population size and growth
- household numbers and structure
- age structure
- ethnicity
- housing,
- education,
- income,
- occupation and qualifications.

The data was at Cashmere and city wide level. This was available as a single report or could be downloaded as separate sections on the website.

The Community Profile has already been used by the Community Board, churches and Residents' Association.

Age groups

The age distribution of Cashmere's population differs from the city as a whole.



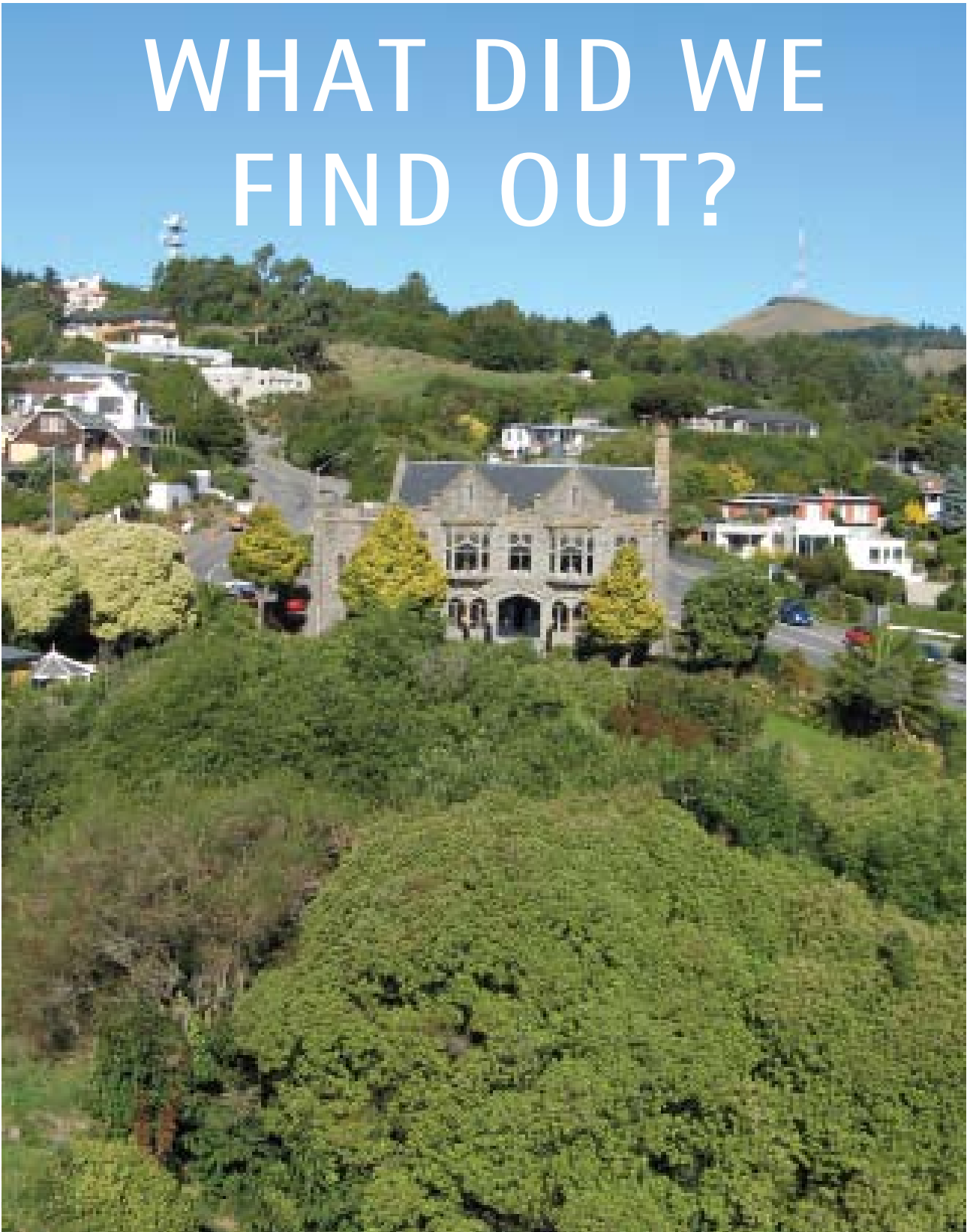
Source: Census of Population and Dwellings, 2006

At the 2006 Census,

- Children under the age of 15 years made up 19% of the community's residents (19.5% citywide and 22% nationwide).
- Young adults aged 15-29 years were under-represented in Cashmere, accounting for 16% of residents compared with 24.5% citywide and 20% nationally.
- Those aged 30-44 years were under-represented 21% in Cashmere compared with 22.5% citywide (22% nationally)
- Those 45-59 years made up larger proportions than their counterparts citywide and nationwide (16% and 19% respectively)
- Residents aged 60 years and older were slightly over-represented.

	Under 15 years	15 to 29 years	30 to 44 years	45- 60 years	60 years and over
Cashmere	19.0	16.3	20.8	22.8	19.9
Christchurch City	19.4	24.6	22.5	16.1	17.4

WHAT DID WE FIND OUT?

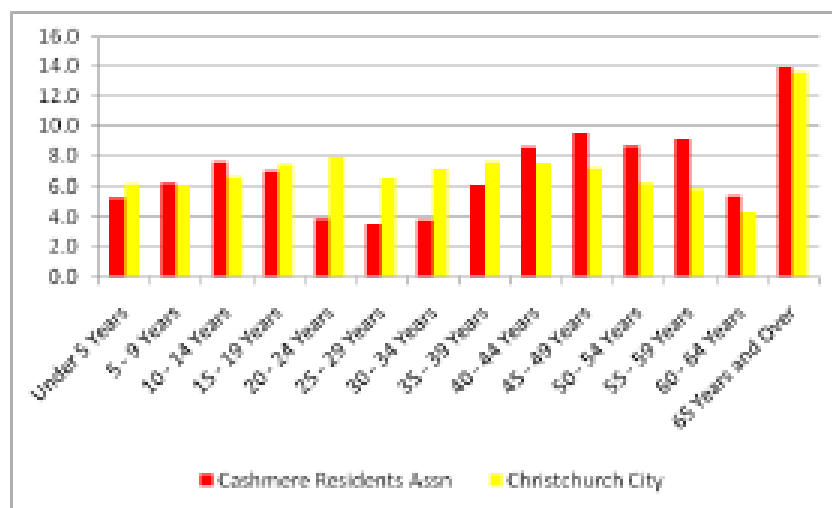


ABOUT CASHMERE

The Community Profile identified that.

- Cashmere community is home to 2454 people living in around 900 households – less than 1% of the city's total population.
- The majority of households (77%) are one-family households and just under half of those families have children.
- Most (97%) identify as "European" or New Zealander.
- Cashmere has fewer people aged 15 to 44 years and more people aged over 45 years than the rest of the city. We have the same proportion of children aged 15 years and under as the rest of the city.

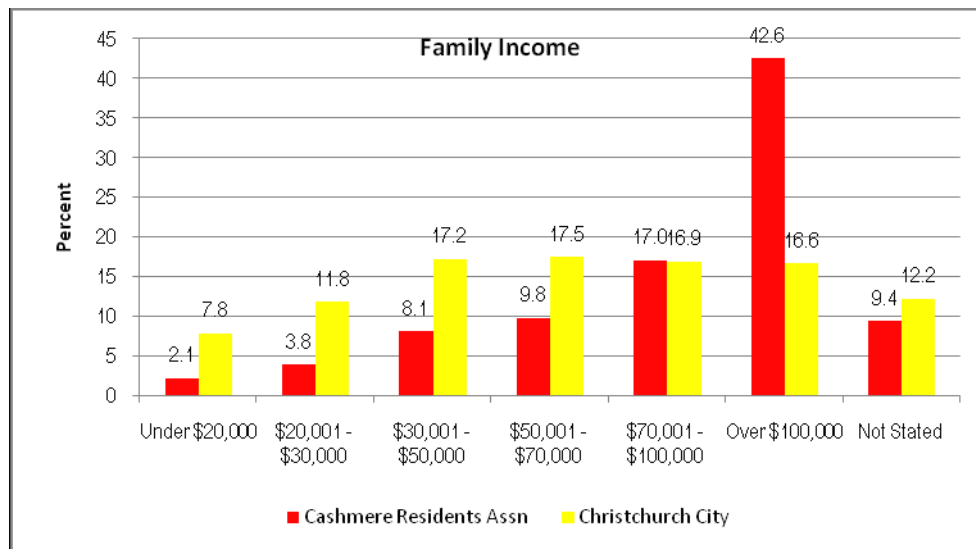
Age groups Cashmere and Christchurch City 2006



Source: Census of Population and Dwellings, 2006

- Residents are more likely to be in the labour force
- Residents are more likely to own their homes and to have other investments and assets.
- Individuals, families and households tend to earn significantly more than the city as a whole.

Family Income Cashmere and Christchurch City 2006



Source: Census of Population and Dwellings, 2006

Interestingly, although this is one of the wealthiest communities in the city (median household income close to double the city median) residents shared a sense of social responsibility with the rest of the city. Residents wanted the city to retain and build a strong sense of social responsibility to all people, especially those in need, including looking after its elderly and those less well off.

“We want the city to retain and build a strong sense of social responsibility to all people, especially those in need, including looking after its elderly and those less well off.”

Local Residents Survey Response

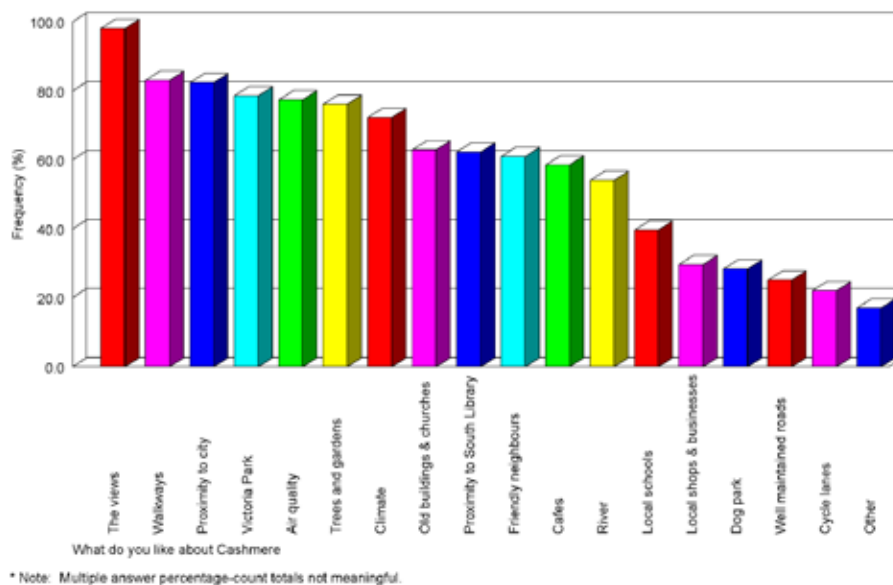
WHAT DID PEOPLE TELL US THEY VALUE?

Residents consistently told us they valued the following aspects of Cashmere:

- Views, including clear skies and views of the city, river, or mountains
- Parks, reserves and green space, including waterways, walking tracks, the dog park, Victoria Park and Cashmere Green
- Character of the area, including the trees and gardens, character houses, old buildings, churches and stone walls
- Proximity to South library, the central city and other amenities
- Local facilities, including local schools, kindergarten, and churches
- Local shops and businesses, including the local cafes, and shops at the foot of the hill
- Air quality and climate, including being above the frost line and /or above the smog
- Safety and relative lack of crime

The graph shows what the 160 households responding to the survey told us that they liked.

The main things the young people indicated they liked about Cashmere in the photos and the school workshops were the parks, playground, trees, buildings and churches, cafes, river, views, walkways and the snow.



DO RESIDENTS FEEL A SENSE OF COMMUNITY?

The majority of residents (82%) who responded to the survey told us they felt a sense of community with others in the neighbourhood. Many reported that having friendly neighbours and maintaining the sense of community in Cashmere was important to them.

Over 60% of those responding to the survey said they would like to know more about groups, clubs and activities in Cashmere. A number of residents identified the type of community activities or events they would attend if they were available, including:

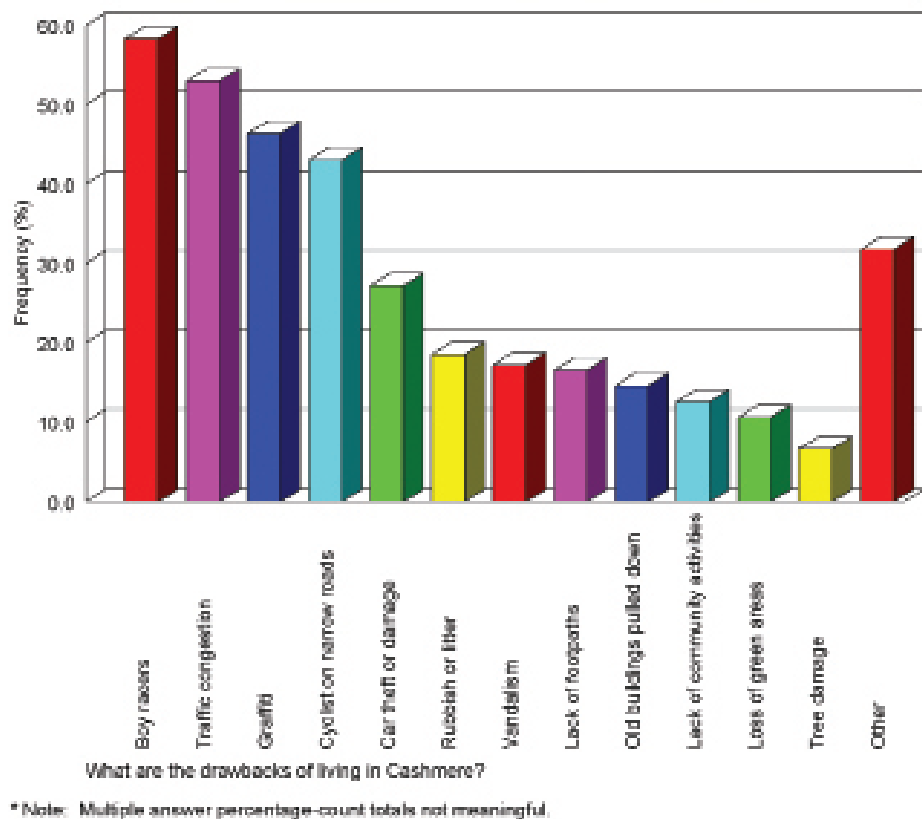
- Concerts / performing arts (53%)
- Neighbourhood support groups (38%)
- Community fairs / fun days (50%)
- Seminars and lectures (33%)
- Street parties or meetings (45%)
- Walking groups (30%)

WHAT ARE THE DRAWBACKS OF LIVING IN CASHMERE?

Residents did not identify many negative aspects of Cashmere. However, they consistently identified the following drawbacks:

- Traffic congestion coming off the hill at peak hours
- Old buildings and houses being pulled down and loss of green areas and trees
- Vandalism, car theft and damage and graffiti
- Lack of community activities
- Boy racers
- Cyclists on narrow roads causing safety concerns
- Lack of footpaths on some streets
- Lack of shops on the hill for example, bakery, deli, dairy or 'fruit and veg' shop
- Poor maintenance of roads, parks and reserves

The graph shows what the 160 households responding to the survey identified as drawbacks.



Young people indicated they didn't like graffiti, tourist buses, lack of footpaths, car burn-out marks, tree damage and litter.

RESIDENTS WANT CASHMERE TO BE A COMMUNITY THAT...

Residents told us they want Cashmere to become a community that...

- Retains [its character](#) and develops a sense of its history and unique identity as a Christchurch original hill suburb, for example by protecting the architecture of older houses, buildings and stone walls and maintaining its gardens and trees.
- Has a strong [sense of togetherness](#) and attracts community spirited people who care for each other. A community which values its neighbourly qualities and actively supports community events.
- Is a [safe](#) environment to bring up kids and is still [affordable](#) for retired people to live in.
- Continues to provide excellent walking, jogging, biking spaces, seats with views, and [recreational activities for all](#).
- Is [quiet and peaceful](#), for example is not a thoroughfare over the hill, has not grown in size, is largely residential with only a few businesses.
- Looks after the natural environment.
- Has [reliable and sustainable transport](#), including a better bus link to the bottom of the hill, no congestion and more people preferring active transport options.

And is a community which is more vibrant with more activities and community concerts and events.

RESIDENTS WANT CHRISTCHURCH TO BECOME A CITY THAT...

Residents told us they want Christchurch to become a city that:

- Develops a [viable city centre and has smaller 'village' centres](#) where people connect not just to shop. A city which has limited the growth of malls,
- Is renowned for its [architecture](#), including its architectural heritage.
- Has good public [transport services](#), including cycle ways on most roads, effective commuter transport, and sustainable public transport.
- Is [sustainable and environmentally friendly](#) and has pollution controls, water conservation measure, sustainable forms of heating and insulation for all new buildings and houses, clean rivers and streams and is leading the country in air quality and water quality.

- Enhances its **garden city image and promotes green space**, including an increasing number of well maintained parks, walkways and open spaces.
- Is **safe** and therefore free from the problems of boy racers, graffiti and vandalism and from crime and violence.
- Is vibrant with publicly funded cultural and festival events for all ages; good public facilities like parks, playgrounds, libraries, and schools; and has a range of leisure and recreation activities.
- Retains and builds a **strong sense of social responsibility** to all people, especially those in need, including looking after its elderly and those less well off.
- Retains the large town feel and **continue to expand into surrounding rural land** but rather encourages denser inner-city living and retention of a green belt; has stricter controls on building styles and developments and has concentrated industrial zones and themed commercial zones.
- **Values local communities**, is friendly and inclusive and celebrates diversity

RESIDENTS WANT THE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION TO

A number of residents supported the Residents' Association and encouraged it to *"keep up the good work"*. Residents wanted the Residents' Association to:

Promote the sense of community by ...

- Continuing to have regular meetings of residents
- Encouraging hill events, for example a concert at Victoria Park or summer night concerts
- Encouraging Neighbourhood Support Groups
- Developing a community notice board, either physical or web-based, that lets people know about things happening in Cashmere.

Work in Partnership with the Community Board to find solutions to issues such as:

- Traffic congestion
- Community Safety
- Efficient and sustainable transport options
- Bylaws and other regulations
- Roading upgrades and maintenance
- Maintenance of parks, reserves and waterways
- Needs of other communities
- Consultation with residents

THE PRIORITIES

The following themes emerged as priorities for Cashmere residents

- Parks, open spaces and walkways
- Physical character of Cashmere
- Traffic and transport
- Safety in our area
- Communication and networking

PARKS, OPEN SPACES AND WALKWAYS

Residents valued the parks, reserves and green space, including waterways, walking tracks, the dog park, Victoria Park and Cashmere Green. Residents wanted Cashmere to retain its character of a community where houses had gardens and trees and there were a range of public parks and green spaces. They did not want infill development which detracted from this.

Residents praised the Council for its long-term development and provision of a range of parks and open space and wanted the Council to continue to provide these. They wanted the Council to ensure these were well maintained, including having seats with views, being litter free and had well maintained tracks. They also supported the continued development of walking, running, and biking tracks and small neighbourhood reserves. Residents suggested there could be better signage for walkways. However, they stressed that signs should not be too big. Residents highlighted concern about the poor drainage in some reserves which flooded into neighbouring properties.

Residents wanted the Residents' Association to advocate for walkway enhancement, including the ongoing improvement and maintenance of walkways, developing buggy friendly walkways, finishing the Harry Ell walkway at the bottom and cycle and pedestrian initiatives. They also wanted the Association to advocate to the Council to rectify the problem of underground streams and flooding in the Purau Reserve.

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT

Residents identified the problems associated with traffic congestion coming off the hill at peak hours. Some suggested a roundabout or traffic lights at the intersection of Cashmere

Road and Hackthorne Road. Others suggested diverting traffic heading into the city away from Cashmere Road rather than encouraging traffic to converge on the Dyers Pass roundabout. An other suggestion, supported by many, was to have the roundabout at the Dyers Pass/Colombo St intersection controlled by traffic lights in peak hours.

Many were also concerned about road safety issues such as cyclists on narrow roads, the lack of footpaths on some streets and the poor maintenance of some roads.

A number of residents were committed to more sustainable transport, including a better bus link to the bottom of the hill and small but more frequent buses in off peak times and more active public transport options.

Residents wanted the Residents' Association to advocate for more and safer cycle ways, for example off road cycle ways and alternative cycle routes up to the Sign of the Kiwi, and cycle lanes up the hill.

Residents also wanted the Residents' Association to advocate for roading upgrades and maintenance, including sweeping gutters to prevent flooding and blocking of drains and repairing pot holes and curbing.

A number of residents wanted to work with the Council to identify solutions to problems associated with traffic congestion.

RETAINING THE CHARACTER OF CASHMERE

Residents told us they want Cashmere to retain its character and develop a sense of its history and unique identity as one of Christchurch's original hill suburbs, for example by protecting the architecture of older houses, buildings and stone walls and maintaining its gardens and trees. Residents also wanted to ensure that new and large buildings and housing did not block the views for other residents or those on walking tracks and pathways.

They did not want Cashmere to grow rapidly and expand into open areas. They believed it should remain largely residential with only a few businesses.

Residents also wanted the Residents' Association to advocate bylaws and other regulations, for example enforcement of regulations limiting the height of buildings and noise levels. A few also wanted new regulations regarding roofing materials

Residents wanted to be consulted about City planning and bylaws as they relate to Cashmere.

SAFETY IN OUR AREA

Cashmere residents wanted Cashmere to continue to be a safe place to bring up kids and for retired people to live in. Residents were particularly concerned about vandalism, car theft and damage, graffiti and boy racers.

Residents wanted the Residents' Association to advocate for stricter alcohol restrictions particularly closing times; and tougher penalties for boy racers. A group of residents also wanted the Residents' Association to work with the Police, Neighbourhood Support and the Community Board to develop a safety strategy for the area.

COMMUNICATION AND NETWORKING

Building a sense of community and connections between residents has always been a priority for the Residents' Association. The importance of community connections was confirmed by residents throughout the process. Residents told us they want Cashmere to become a community that has a strong sense of togetherness and attracts community spirited people who care for each other. The majority of those responding to the survey said they would like to know more about groups, clubs and activities in Cashmere.

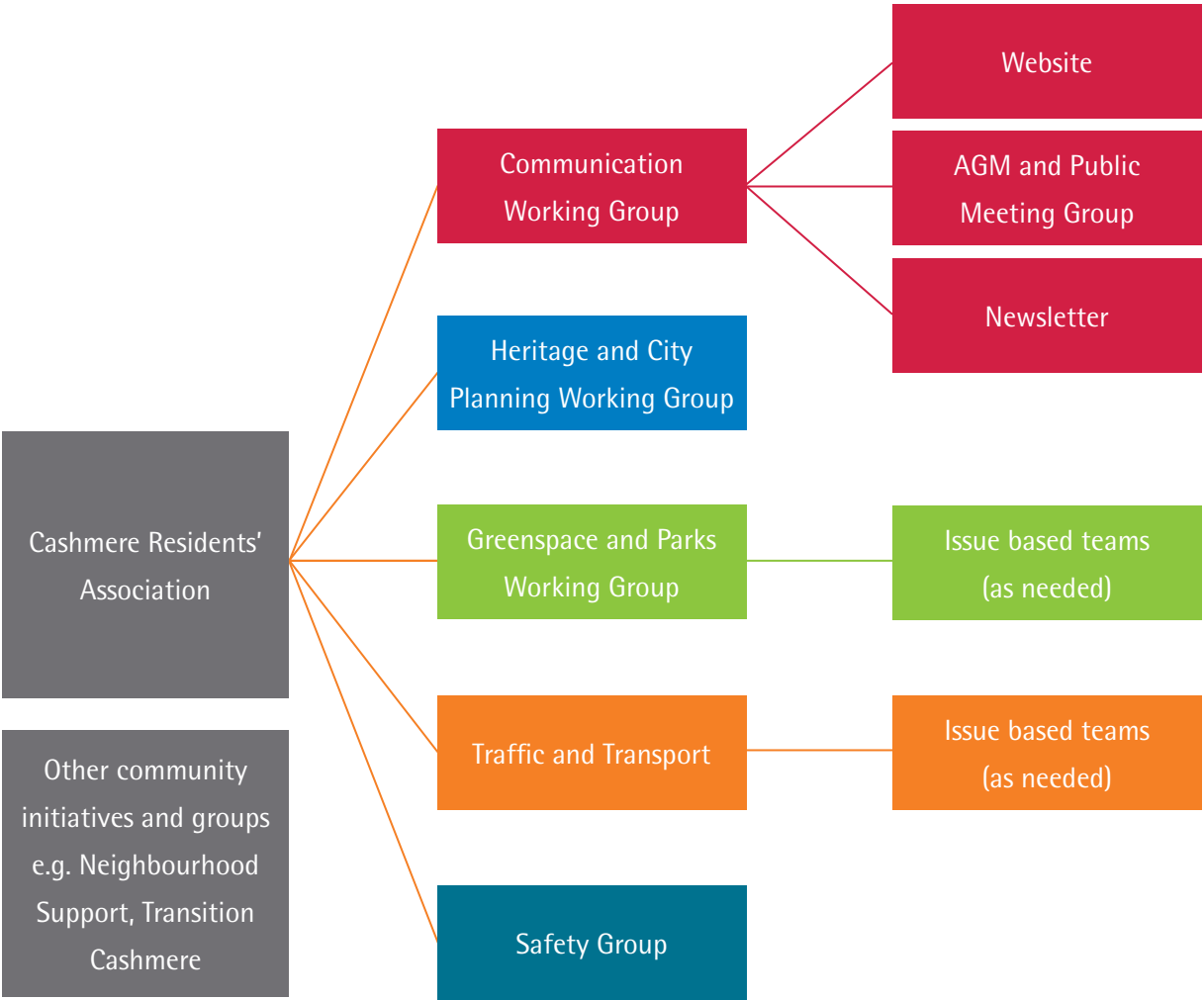
Residents wanted the Residents' Association to continue to have regular meetings of residents and to develop a community notice board, either physical or web-based, that lets people know about things happening in Cashmere. Residents wanted the Residents' Association to act as an umbrella body for a number of smaller issue-based working groups.

THE WAY FORWARD

A number of residents have volunteered to be involved in activities ranging from organising community events and activities to working with the Community Board on particularly issues.

Residents have volunteered to be part of ongoing working groups and/or one off project teams. Others have asked to be kept informed and will have input on an ad hoc basis.

It is suggested that the Residents Association develop a structure and processes that engage residents in its activities. For example:



Recommendations

It is recommended that the Cashmere Residents' Association

- Develops a structure and process that engage residents in its activities, including working groups and ad hoc issue based project teams
- Liaise with the Spreydon Heathcote Community Board and the Council regarding the issues and priorities identified in the Vision and Values Project
- Continue development of an email database that has been used to keep people informed of the project and to invite them to meetings.
- Develop a community notice board that lets people know about things happening in Cashmere
- Maintain the web site that lets people know about things happening in Cashmere and has links to other relevant websites.
- Negotiate with a local group or organisation regarding the maintenance of the Cashmere website
- Hold an annual public meeting to inform residents of Residents' Association activities and provide an opportunity for residents to identify future priorities and issues and how they might want to be involved in them.

OUR PROJECT CHAMPIONS

Spreydon-Heathcote Community Board



Phil Clearwater [Chairperson]



Chris Mene [Deputy Chairperson]



Barry Corbett (Councillor)



Sue Wells (Councillor)



Oscar Alpers



Karolin Potter



Tim Scandrett

Thanks to Christchurch City Council staff for their assistance with this project, particularly the Community Engagement Team, Beckenham Service Centre Team, Monitoring and Research Team and Spreydon Heathcote Community Board Advisor.

Residents' Association



Jacqui Duncan – Principal Cashmere Primary School



The Cup Café



OUR PROJECT TEAM



Joan Blatchford,
Chair of the Project Team



Barry Armstrong, Residents'
Association Representative



The Rev David Coster, Cashmere Hills
Presbyterian Church



Sandra Hector, Youth Pastor, St
Augustine's Anglican Church



Mary Richardson, Project Manager
JHI Consultancy Ltd



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